Devotions to the Holy Face, &c.

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Tipperary, Ireland

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SPECIAL FAVOURS RECEIVED THROUGH THE HOLY FACE

We receive letters weekly in connection with devotion to the Holy Face from all parts of the globe. In some of these mention is made of cures, conversions, temporal favours, &c., &c., obtained. I will just relate a few that happened under my own observation. A man who had not been to Mass or the Sacraments for years, was converted and died a very happy death by a Novena to the Holy Face, offered by a friend of his.

Sisters from one of the foreign countries came to Ireland looking for subjects. They tried some convents but failed hopelessly. In the end they were advised to have recourse to the Holy Face, they did so, and after a short time got the number required. After two years they wrote to the convent, saying all the Irish Sisters were well and doing well. Later on I will give an account of other favours.

A LOVER OF THE HOLY FACE.

DEDICATION.

To the "HOLY FACE" of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, kissed by the traitor, Judas, and bathed in bloody sweat in the Garden of Gethsemani;

To the "HOLY FACE" struck by a vile servant, blindfolded, and profaned by sacrilegious hands;

To the "HOLY FACE," defiled with spittle, and cut and bruised by buffets and blows;

To the "HOLY FACE," covered with sweat and blood, and falling in the mire under the weight of the cross;

To the "HOLY FACE," wiped with a veil by St. Veronica on the road to Calvary;

To the "HOLY FACE," resplendent at the Transfiguration, and glorified at the Resurrection;

To the "HOLY FACE," the mirror of Divine perfections, and the Lamp of Paradise.

Through the hands of pious Veronica, this little book is most reverentially dedicated.

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THE PALACE, THURLES.

I hereby give my *imprimatur* and entire approval to the little publication entitled "Devotions to the Holy Face, &c.," brought out under the auspices of the Very Rev. Dean Kinane, of Cashel.

The Association of the Holy Face has been approved of by His Holiness Leo XIII., and enriched by him with numerous Indulgences.

I earnestly recommend it, accordingly, to the Faithful of Cashel and Emly.

✠ T. W. CROKE,
Archbishop of Cashel.

Dec. 25th, 1890.

Imprimatur:

✠ GULIELMUS
ARCHIEPISCOPUS DUBLINENSIS,
HIBERNIÆ PRIMAS.

SECTION I.

THE OBJECT OF THE CONFRATERNITY.

"Show us thy face, and we shall be saved" (*Ps.* lxxix. 4).

"Behold, O God our Protector: and look on the face of thy Christ (*Ps.* lxxxiii. 10).

"And he that betrayed him, gave them a sign, saying: Whomsoever I shall kiss, that is he, hold him fast. And forthwith coming to Jesus, he said: Hail, Rabbi. And he kissed him" (*Matt.* xxvi. 48, 49).

"Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others struck his face with the palms of their hands. Saying: Prophesy into us, O Christ, who is he that struck thee?" (*Matt.* xxvi. 67, 68).

"And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him: Prophesy: and the servants struck him with the palms of their hands" (*Mark* xiv. 65).

"And they clothe him with purple, and platting a crown of thorns, they put it upon him. And they struck his head with a reed; and they did spit on him" (*Mark* xv. 17, 19).

"And the men that held him, mocked him, and struck him. And they blindfolded him, and smote his face. And they asked him, saying: Prophesy who it is that struck thee" (*Luke* xxii. 63, 64).

"And blaspheming, many other things they said against him" (*Luke* xxii. 65).

"And when he had said these things, one of the servants standing by gave Jesus a blow" (*John* xviii. 22).

"And platting a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand. And bowing the knee before him, they mocked him. And spitting upon him, they took the reed, and struck his head" (*Matt.* xxvii. 29, 30).

"Let us look upon the disfigured features of our Blessed Saviour impressed upon the linen cloth, transported with the sight. Let us strive to reproduce this mysterious image in our souls also" (*St. Leonard*).

From these texts it is clear that during His Passion, the Holy Face of our Blessed Lord was singled out for, and subjected to, special insults and injuries. Judas imprinted the kiss of treason on the Sacred Face of Jesus. The first keen insult. The Jews smote and spat on His Holy Face; they buffeted and struck with their hands His Holy Face; they plucked His beard, and blindfolded Him; and the Precious Blood issuing from the Crown of Thorns, closed His Sacred Eyes, and covered His Holy Face.

Therefore, the direct object of the Arch-Confraternity is reparation for all the insults, outrages, and blasphemies offered to the Holy Face of our Blessed Lord during His bitter Passion.

Our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ suffered, died, and shed His Precious Blood to redeem the whole world. The sins of man were the cause of His

sufferings. To win heaven for mankind, Jesus died. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent," says our Blessed Lord, "so must the son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him may not perish; but may have life everlasting" (*John*, iii. 14). St. Paul writes: "For all have sinned, and do need the glory of God. Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption, that is in Jesus Christ....through faith in His blood" (*Rom.*, iii. 23). "He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (*Phil.* ii. 5). "He was wounded for our iniquities, and bruised for our sins" (*Is.* liii. 5). "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearers he opened not his mouth" (*Is.* liii. 7). "I have given my body to the strikers, and my cheeks to them that plucked them. I have not turned away my face from them that rebuke me and spit upon me" (*Is.* lv. 12). "I am a worm and no man, the reproach of men, and the outcast of the people....They have dug my hands and feet. They have numbered all my bones" (*Ps.* xxi.) "He is filled with reproaches" (*Lam.* iii. 30).

Our sins, and the sins of the whole world, betrayed and sold Jesus, like Judas; denied Him, like Peter; scourged and cut His virgin flesh with whips of wire; crowned Him with thorns; condemned Him to death; nailed Him to the cross; crucified Him on Mount Calvary, and after death cut and opened His Sacred Side with the soldier's lance. By our sins we spat on His Holy Face, buffeted and struck His Holy Face. Hence the

object of the great devotions of the Arch-Confraternity is to make reparation to the Passion of our Blessed Lord, especially to His Holy Face, for our own sins, and the sins of the world.

Another object of the Devotions of the Arch-Confraternity is to make reparation for blasphemies, and the profanation of Sundays and Holidays. On the 11th of November, 1843, Sister St. Peter had the following revelation :—

She writes : "Our Lord transported my spirit to the road which leads to Calvary, and represented to me, in a very life-like manner, the pious office rendered Him by St. Veronica, who with her veil wiped His most Sacred Face, which was all covered with spittings, with dust, with sweat, and with blood. Then the Divine Saviour made me hear impious men, by their blasphemies, renewing, at the present moment, the outrages inflicted at that time on His Holy Face; and I understood that all these blasphemies, which the wicked hurled against the Divinity which they could not reach, fell like the spits of the Jews upon the sorrowful Face of our Lord, who made Himself a victim for sinners........Then I was made to understand, that our Lord said, that by applying ourselves to the exercise of reparation for blasphemies we render Him the same service that the pious Veronica rendered Him, and that He looks upon those who render it with the same complacent eyes with which He looked upon the holy woman during His Passion..............In proportion, said our Blessed Lord, to the care you take to

restore My Face, disfigured by blasphemies, I will take care of yours, disfigured by sin. I will imprint My Image on it, and I will make it as beautiful as when it was washed in the waters of baptism........

"There are men on earth who have the power of restoring the body; but it is only I who can be called the restorer of souls to the Image of God. This then is the grace which I promise to grant to whosoever will apply himself to render to My Adorable Face the honour and adoration which It merits, with the intention of making reparation by this homage for the opprobrium which It receives from blasphemies."

In another place our Blessed Lord said to the holy nun : "The earth is covered with crime. The Holy Name of God is blasphemed, and the profanation of the Lord's Day fill up the measure of iniquities. Never before have these crimes reached such a pitch............My Name is everywhere blasphemed, even children blaspheme."

Fervent reparation for all the blasphemies of the world, is a special object of the Devotion to the Holy Face.

What object or end can be higher and holier for the devout lover of Jesus, than by sweet love and fervent prayer, to wipe the spittle from the disfigured and blood-stained Face of our loving Saviour ; and to make reparation to His wounded, bleeding Heart for our own sins, ingratitude, and coldness ; and then for the sins, blasphemies, and insults of impious infidels

heretics, and, still worse, bad Catholics? This heavenly object of sweet and tender reparation to our loving Saviour ought to win the heart of every fervent Christian to join the holy Confraternity.

"I seek Veronicas," says our Blessed Lord, "to wipe and honour My Divine Face, which has few adorers. Pope Pius IX. has said: "Reparation is a work destined to save society." "May I expire," says M. Dupont, the "HOLY MAN OF TOURS," "panting with thirst to behold the desirable Face of our Lord Jesus Christ."

ST. GERTRUDE AND THE HOLY FACE.

Our Blessed Lord appeared to the Saint as scourged at the Pillar. The executioners cut and mangled His Sacred virgin Flesh, and frequently struck His Holy Face. Each time He turned His bleeding Face from one executioner, the other struck it more cruelly. The Saint at this vision cried out: "Alas, Lord! what remedy can be found which would be capable of softening the sharp sufferings of the Divine Face?" The Saviour replied: "If anyone meditated upon and considered My sufferings with tenderness and compassion, and charitably prayed for sinners, his heart would be to Me a salutary balm, and it would assuage My sufferings."

One time St. Gertrude wept bitterly for the share her sins had in disfiguring His Holy Face. In sorrow, she cast herself at His Sacred Feet, and begged His forgiveness. The Redeemer said

to her: "By the bowels of My mercy I remit all thy sins," and then made to her the following promise: "All those who, in order to testify love for Me, shall often recall to mind the picture which represents My Divine Face, shall receive in themselves, through the impression of My Humanity, a shining ray of My Divinity, and by means of the resemblance to My Face, wherewith they shall be impressed, they shall shine more than many others in life everlasting."

Let each cry out with the penitent King David:

"Make thy face shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy justifications" (*Ps.* cxviii. 135), "Let the light of thy countenance shine upon me and save me in thy mercy" (*Ps.* xxx. 17). "I have entreated thy face with my whole heart, have pity on me according to thy promise" (*C.* xxiii. 58). "Turn away thy face from my sins, and blot out my iniquities" (*L.* iii).

Section II.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARCH-CONFRATERNITY OF THE HOLY FACE AT TOURS, IN FRANCE.

"The foolish things of the world," says St. Paul, "God hath chosen, that he may confound the wise; and the weak things......that he may confound the strong. And the base things of the world, and the things that are contemptible hath God chosen, and things that are not, that he might bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his sight" (1 *Cor.* i. 27-29).

In the spirit of the above sacred text, God, in His Providence, chose twelve poor, illiterate fishermen to preach and spread the Gospel throughout all nations, "that no flesh should glory in His sight." To set the world on fire with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, God selected a timid, humble nun, hidden and unknown to the world in her cloister, at Parey-le-Monial—the Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque. In like manner, God chose Sister St. Peter, an humble Carmelite nun; and a simple layman, M. Dupont, now known as the "Holy Man of Tours," to establish and propagate the Devotions of the Holy Face.

Love and reparation to the Holy Face, like devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, are as old as Christianity itself; but the Arch-Confraternity owes its origin to the two holy souls above mentioned.

Our Blessed Lord several times appeared to Sister St. Peter, a holy Carmelite nun, at Tours, and revealed to her His desire to establish, and extend, Devotions to His Holy Face; and promised treasure of most precious graces to all who would practise the holy devotions. Our object, and hence our space, allow us to insert only a few extracts.

On the 11th of November, 1845, she writes:—"Our Lord transported my spirit to the road which leads to Calvary, and represented to me in a very life-like manner the pious office rendered to Him by St. Veronica, who with her veil wiped His Most Sacred Face, which was all covered with spittings, with dust, with sweat, and blood. Then the Divine Saviour made me hear impious men, by their blasphemies, renewing the outrages inflicted at that time on His Holy Face. . . . . Then I was made to understand that our Lord said that by applying ourselves to the exercise of reparation for blasphemies, we render Him the same service that the pious Veronica rendered Him, and that He looks upon those who render it with the same complacent eyes with which He looked at this holy woman during His Passion." Again, our Divine Lord said to her, "I seek Veronicas to wipe and honour My Divine Face, which has few adorers." In another place our Blessed Saviour said to her, "All those who honour My Holy Face, in a spirit of reparation, will, by so doing, perform the office of the pious Veronica." "In proportion to the care you take

to restore My Face, disfigured by blasphemies, I will take care of yours, disfigured by sin. I will imprint My image upon it, and will make it as beautiful as when it was washed in the waters of Baptism." Further on, we shall insert the promises made by our Blessed Lord to this holy nun in favour of those who practise devotion to His Holy Face.

Sister St. Peter died, in the odour of sanctity, on the 8th day of July, 1848; and devotion to the Holy Face was taken up with the greatest fervour by M. Dupont, known as the "Holy Man of Tours."

M. DUPONT.

The holy man placed in his oratory an authentic picture of the Holy Face, with lamp burning before it day and night. Crowds thronged to pray in the oratory; and God deigned to approve and bless the Devotion by many and prodigious miracles—cures of soul and body wrought by the application of the oil burning before the Holy Face.

During 45 years, M. Dupont prayed and laboured for love and reparation to the Holy Face, and on the 18th of March, 1876, he died in the odour of sanctity, aged 79 years. His last words were, "May I expire panting with a burning thirst to see the adorable Face of our Lord Jesus Christ."

After the death of the two great servants of

God, our Divine Lord blessed, in a special manner, the Devotion of the Holy Face. We may say, with the inspired text, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. From henceforth now they may rest from their labours, for their works follow them." (*Apo.* xiv. 13.)

After the death of the holy man, Mgr. Colet, Archbishop of Tours, converted the house of M. Dupont into a public chapel, solemnly authorized the Devotion to the Holy Face, and established a society of priests, under the title of "PRIESTS OF THE HOLY FACE," to work up the Devotion, and take charge of the crowds of pilgrims that flocked from all parts of France and distant countries to the holy shrine.

On the 25th of October, 1884, Mgr. Rene-Meignan, Archbishop of Tours, by a Pastoral Letter, canonically established the Confraternity of the Holy Face, and approved of its Rules.

We can well conceive the joy in heaven of the two servants of God at the event.

A greater joy awaited them. On the 9th of December, of the same year (1884), His Holiness Leo XIII., by a Brief, approved of the Confraternity, and accorded to it several special indulgences. The Brief begins thus;—

"For perpetual remembrance.

"Having learnt that, in a public Oratory of the town of Tours, dedicated to the Holy Face of our Lord Jesus Christ, there exists a pious Association of the faithful, legitimately established under the title of the Holy Face.

"In order that this Association may increase, day by day,

"Putting all Our confidence in the mercy of Almighty God, and in the authority of His Blessed Apostles, Peter and Paul, we grant," &c.

Later on we will give a list of the indulgences.

In another Brief, dated April 22nd, 1885, at the petition of the Confraternity, His Holiness enriched the Confraternity by many other Indulgences, which we will insert in their proper place.

On the 1st of September, 1885, a petition was addressed to the Holy Father, entreating him that the Confraternity of the Holy Face, at Tours, may be established into an Arch-Confraternity. This petition was signed by almost all the Prelates of France, by many Bishops in Belgium, Italy, Spain, Germany, Ireland, England, America, Canada, &c.

Now came the signal and final triumph, due, no doubt, to a great extent, to the prayers of Sister St. Peter and M. Dupont, in heaven. On the 1st of October, 1885, by a Brief, Leo XIII. acceded to the petition, and established the Arch-Confraternity of the Holy Face at Tours.

......"We," writes His Holiness, "by Our Apostolical authority, in virtue of these presents establish and constitute, as a perpetual Arch-Confraternity, with the accustomed privileges, the so-called Confraternity of the Holy Face, established in the town of Tours.....

"Given at Rome, near St. Peter, under the

Ring of the Fisherman, the 1st day of October, 1885, being the eighth year of Our Pontificate."

The Devotion to the Holy Face has, therefore, the approbation of Leo XIII. It has the seal of the Vicar of Christ stamped upon it.

SECTION III.

ST. VERONICA AND THE AUTHENTIC PICTURE OF THE HOLY FACE.

WE would be most anxious to give a brief sketch of the life of St. Veronica, as also the history of the authentic picture of the Holy Face, but we cannot swell our tiny book beyond a certain bulk. However, we cannot omit a few passages which will interest our pious readers.

In some popular manuals of devotion we find it stated that Veronica was the name of the Image of the Holy Face imprinted on the handkerchief, and that no such Saint as Veronica existed at the time of the Passion of our Blessed Lord. This is an error. The best authorities prove beyond doubt that Veronica was the name of the holy woman who, compassionating our Divine Lord, presented the handkerchief to wipe His Sacred Face. Many learned authors are of opinion that St. Veronica was the woman mentioned in the Gospel of St. Luke (*Ch.* viii.43), who was afflicted for twelve

years with an issue of blood, and was healed by touching the "hem of the garment" of Jesus. Full of gratitude for this miraculous cure, she followed the footsteps of her Saviour, and with a loving heart, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Magdalen, and the other holy women, watched every stage of His Passion.

Father Ventura writes—"It is probable that she who received from the Saviour the distinguished favour of wiping, with her own hands, the sweat and blood from His Divine Face is the same who touched His garments with heroic faith, and, in doing so, rendered a most beautiful testimony to His Divinity."

Piazza, a learned writer, describes it thus:—

"After Jesus had quitted the Praetorium of Pilate, laden with His Cross and covered with the Blood issuing from the wounds He had received during the flagellation, and from the Crown of Thorns, and had proceeded four hundred and fifty steps on the path to Calvary, he approached a house which stood at the corner of the street.

"Veronica then, perceiving him from afar, came full of compassion to meet Him, and, having removed the veil which she wore on her head, she presented it to Him that He might make use of it to wipe His Face, all bathed, as it was, with blood and sweat. Christ, having benignantly received it at her hands, gave it back to her afterwards, leaving upon it, as a gracious recompense, the impress of His Holy Face.

"The resemblance was so complete that it is even possible to perceive the mark made by the

hand which dealt him a sacrilegious blow. Rejoicing over the possession of so precious a treasure, the illustrious lady preserved it in her house with jealous care."

The following is the substance of facts narrated by trustworthy historians:—

Pilate sent to the Emperor Tiberius, in Rome, a faithful narrative of the doctrine, the death, and miracles of our Blessed Lord. The Emperor, struck by the extraordinary miracles, desired to have His statue placed among the gods, but this proposition was rejected by the Senate, which decreed the extermination of the Christians. The Emperor fell sick of a mortal disease, and Veronica volunteered to go to Rome to cure him with the blessed relic of the Holy Face, and thereby proclaim the Divinity of the Christian religion, and silence the falsehood published by the Jews. She was kindly received in Rome by the Emperor Tiberius, and the moment he touched the miraculous veil he was cured of the leprosy.

Veronica is said to have given the precious relic to St. Clement, who was afterwards Pope, third successor to St. Peter. Like all the other sacred relics, for centuries it was preserved with the greatest care and secrecy. At present, and for many centuries past, the Holy Face is preserved in a gorgeous shrine in St. Peter's. At stated times the shrine is opened, two Cardinals, delegated for the purpose, expose the Holy Relic, and give benediction with it to the kneeling faithful, as with the Blessed Sacrament.

A few extracts will interest the pious reader.

Philip of Bergamo writes—"Veronica was summoned to depart from Jerusalem, and to go to Rome with the Sudarium of Jesus Christ, at this epoch, by order of Cæsar, and by the intervention of Volusian, a valiant soldier, and well known at court.

"The Emperor was confined to his bed with serious illness. He had been informed by Pilate of the great marvels wrought by Jesus, and he had sent ambassadors to Judea, in the hope of obtaining a cure. The messengers found that Jesus had been already crucified. When the Jews sought to deceive them by relating the fable of His Body having been carried away by His disciples, Veronica contradicted their falsehoods, and, showing the messengers the impression of His Most Holy Face upon her veil, offered to go with them to Rome, promising that, on seeing it, the Emperor would be cured. Having then placed the precious veil in a reliquary, she embarked with the ambassadors, and arrived at Rome, where she was presented to the Emperor.

"As soon as he had received the holy woman, and had touched the effigy of Christ, he was completely cured. In consequence of this miracle, Veronica was held in great esteem by the Emperor."

The truth and certainty of the above statement is of minor importance. We simply give the statement for what it is worth; but traditions of every age attest the great fact that St. Veronica

herself brought the Holy Relic to Rome, and it is to-day preserved and venerated in St. Peter's.

The Bollandists write—"That the Sudarium was given to St. Veronica is accepted by orthodox Christians without hesitation. That Veronica herself conveyed the holy picture to Rome is the unanimous opinion of all writers on the subject."

The learned Pope Benedict XIV. writes—"In the Basilica of the Vatican, in addition to the Spear and the Lance, is preserved, and greatly venerated, the Sudarium, which has perfectly kept, and still keeps, the impression of the Face of our Lord Jesus Christ, bathed with sweat and blood."

Pope Urban VIII., on the 23rd December, 1625, in solemn procession, deposited the Holy Relic and Lance of the Passion in a magnificent niche, called after St. Veronica, under the great dome of St. Peter's, the masterpiece of Michael Angelo.

Danté, in his immortal poem, meets Veronica in Paradise, and, beholding the veil, exclaims with admiration—"Oh! my Lord Jesus Christ, true God, it is thus, then, that Thy Holy Face has been preserved."

To increase the veneration to the Holy Face, this same Pope ordered that on the 8th of April, 1629, there should be added to the Holy Face the Lance of the Passion and piece of the wood of the True Cross. He also ordained, by a Bull, that the three Sacred Relics should be exhibited to the people, and granted a Plenary Indulgence to all who would be present at the Ostension. He

also forbade, under pain of excommunication, that the gauze which covered the Holy Face should be removed without Papal authorization.

Piazza, who wrote in the year 1713, describes thus the Holy Face:—"The Head of Christ is everywhere transpierced with thorns. The forehead is bleeding, the eyes swollen and bloodshot, the face pale and livid. Upon the right cheek the cruel mark of the blow given by Malcus, with his iron gauntlet, sorrowfully attracts observation, in the same manner as the spittle of the Jews and the stains left upon the left cheek. The nose is a little flattened and bleeding; the mouth open, and filled with blood, the beard torn in several places, and the hair also on one side."

The fac-similes of the Holy Face daily sent from Rome correspond with the above description.

For a long time it was forbidden, under pain of excommunication, to reproduce copies of the Holy Face. Since the year 1848, under the Pontificate of Pius IX., authorized copies have been printed on linen, cotton, or silk. They are impressed with a seal, which is a guarantee that they are authentic and true fac-similes of the real Holy Face. They have also touched the Lance and the wood of the True Cross. We may also add, the copies with the seal have the same privileges as the miraculous Holy Face itself.

SECTION IV.

INDULGENCES.

To encourage and extend, throughout Christendom, Devotion to the Holy Face, Pope Leo XIII. has enriched the Confraternity with the following Indulgences, also applicable to the souls in purgatory.

INDULGENCES GRANTED BY LEO XIII.

PLENARY INDULGENCES.—1. On the day of admission. 2. At the hour of death. 3. For every yearly pilgrimage made to the Oratory of the Holy Face. 4. On the feast of St. Peter, or on a day during the Octave. 5. On the Feast of the Transfiguration, or a day during the Octave. 6. On Passion Sunday, or any other day fixed by the Ordinary.

In order to gain these last three indulgences it is necessary to visit the seat of the Confraternity.

PARTIAL INDULGENCES.—Seven years and seven quarantines, for each assistance at the monthly re-unions.

Sixty Days: 1. For each pious exercise performed at the seat of the Confraternity.

2. For any other work of piety offered in union with the object of the association.

3. Each time a member devoutly kisses the

effigy or print of the Holy Face, repeating the invocation: "Lord, show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved."

A hundred days for every prayer said before an effigy of the Holy Face (Pius IX., December 11th, 1876).

Forty days each time a member assists at any of the daily, morning, or evening exercises in the chapel of the Holy Face, at Tours. (The Archbishop of Tours, November 15th, 1876.) The above indulgences, which require that a visit should be made to the church, may be gained by sick persons, by virtue of some other act prescribed by the confessor. (Brief of the 30th March, 1885.)

These Indulgences show the mind of the Church. The Vicar of Christ calls upon the pious faithful to join the Confraternity, to make reparation to our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ for all the sins and blasphemies of a wicked world.

Section V.

PROMISES MADE BY OUR BLESSED LORD JESUS CHRIST IN FAVOUR OF THOSE WHO HONOUR HIS HOLY FACE.

Love and reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Holy Face are kindred devotions. The Sacred Heart is not only the symbol, but seat of the

boundless love of Jesus Christ. The Heart is the symbol of love, the Face is the mirror of the soul; the Face is the living, speaking reflection of the Heart; the Face expresses what the Heart symbolizes, but, lacking utterance, cannot reveal love, sorrow, and other affections of the soul.

In the many apparitions of our Divine Lord to Blessed Margaret Mary, His sacred Heart appeared, not surrounded with glory and triumph, but pierced with a lance, and circle of thorns, and surmounted with a cross Our Blessed Lord complained of the sins and ingratitude of this world. "Behold," says our Blessed Lord, "this Heart, which has loved men so much, that It has spared nothing, even to exhausting Itself in order to testify to them its love; and in return I receive from the greater part only ingratitude by reason of the contempt, irreverence, sacrilege, and coldness which they show Me in this Sacrament of Love." Reparation is the essence of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

During His Divine Life the sanctity, the glory, and Divinity of the Eternal Word shone forth in the Divine countenance of our Blessed Lord, and awed and won the hearts of His beholders. But in the Holy Face of Veronica, the beauty, and glory of His Divinity have disappeared; and sorrow, pain, wounds, stripes, spittle, and blood are exhibited on the Holy Face of our loving Redeemer. As to the Sacred Heart, so to the Holy Face, reparation for sin and blasphemy is the essence of the Devotion.

To set the world on fire with the love and de-

votion of the Sacred Heart, God chose a timid nun, Blessed Margaret Alacoque, and made to her eleven promises, now known to the world, in favour of those who practise and promote Devotion to the Sacred Heart. God blessed the work. The finger of the Almighty was seen in it. It was God's work alone. "The foolish things of the world," writes St. Paul, "God hath chosen, that he may may confound the wise; and the weak things........that he may confound the strong. And the base things of the world, and the things that are contemptible, hath God chosen, and the things that are not, that he may bring to nought things that are........For the foolishness of God is wiser than men........It is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the prudence of the prudent I will reject........that no flesh should glory in his sight." (1 *Cor.* i.) The eleven promises made by our Blessed Lord in favour of those who practise and promote Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus are known to the world.

In the same spirit God has chosen a timid, holy nun, Sister Mary St. Peter, and a layman, M. Dupont, now styled the "HOLY MAN OF TOURS," to be the apostles of the Devotion of the Holy Face. Our Blessed Lord has promised the following great favours and privileges to all those who honour and worship His Holy Face.

1. They shall receive in themselves, by the impression of My Humanity, a bright irradiation of My Divinity, and shall be so illuminated by It in their inmost souls, that by their likeness to My

Face, they shall shine with a brightness surpassing that of many others in eternal life.
(St. Gertrude, Tusinnations, Book iv., chap vii.)

2. St. Mechtilde having asked our Lord that those who celebrate the memory of His sweet Face should never be deprived of His amiable company, He replied: "Not one of them shall be separated from Me."
(St. Mechtilde, Spiritual Grace, Liv. I. chap. xiii.)

3. "Our Lord," said Sister Saint Peter, "has promised me that He will imprint His Divine likeness on the souls of those who honour His most holy Countenance." (January 21st, 1847.)

This adorable Face, as it were, the seal of the Divinity, which has the virtue of reproducing the likeness of God in the souls that are applied to it. (November 6th, 1845.)

4. "By My holy Face you shall work miracles." (Our Lord to Sister Saint Peter. (October 27th, 1845.)

5. "By My holy Face you will obtain the conversion of many sinners. Nothing that you ask in making this offering will be refused to you. If you knew how pleasing the sight of My Face is to My Father." (November 22nd, 1846).

6. "As in a kingdom you can procure all you wish for with a coin marked with the prince's effigy, so in the kingdom of heaven, you will obtain all you desire with the precious coin of My holy humanity, which is My holy Countenance." (October 29th, 1845.)

7. All those who honour My Holy Face in a spirit of reparation will, by so doing, perform

the office of the pious Veronica. (October 27th, 1845.)

8. "According to the care you take in making reparation to My Face, disfigured by blasphemies, so will I take care of yours, which has been disfigured by sin. I will reprint therein My Image, and render it as beautiful as it was on leaving the Baptismal font." (Our Lord to Sister Saint Peter, November 3rd, 1845.)

9. "Our Lord has promised me," said again Sister Saint Peter, "for all those who defend His cause in this work of reparation, by words by prayers, or in writings, that He will defend them before His Father; at their death, He will purify their souls by effacing all the blots of sin, and will restore them their primitive beauty." (March 12th, 1846.)

And again, "I will give you My Face, and when you present it to My Father, My Mouth shall be open to plead your cause."

Besides the more generous motives of love and gratitude to our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, these promises, in themselves, are sufficient to induce pious Christians to practise and promote, by all the means in their power, devotions to His Holy Face.

SECTION VI.

CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE HOLY FACE.

1. The name of each member to be inscribed in a Register where the Confraternity is canonically erected and affiliated to the Arch-Confraternity at Tours.
2. Each member recites daily, for the intention of the Arch-Confraternity, one Pater, Ave, Gloria, and the invocation, "Lord show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved."
3. To wear an effigy of the Holy Face either on a cross, medal, or scapular.
4. Each member receives a certificate of admission. This certificate contains the rules, indulgences, and explains the object and privileges of the Confraternity.

SECTION VII.

PRAYERS AND ACTS OF REPARATION TO THE HOLY FACE.

Let us look upon the disfigured features of our Blessed Saviour, impressed upon the linen cloth, transported with love at the sight. Let us strive

to reproduce this mysterious image in our souls also. (St. Leonard of Port-Maurice, O.S.F.)

ACT OF REPARATION FOR BLASPHEMY. BY ST. LEONARD OF P.M., O.S.F.

Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.
Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary, most Holy.
Blessed be the Holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be God in His Angels, and in His Saints.

An Indulgence of one year is granted to all as often as they recite these praises, to repair the offences committed against God by blasphemies. (Pius VII., July 23rd, 1801.)

PRAYER OF SISTER ST. PETER.

The prayer called "The Golden Arrow" was given by our Blessed Lord to Sister St. Peter for reparation for blasphemies.

THE GOLDEN ARROW.

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most mysterious, and unutterable Name of God be praised, loved, adored, and glorified in heaven, on earth, and in hell, by all God's creatures, and by the Sacred Heart of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. Amen.

ANOTHER PRAYER OF SISTER ST. PETER.

I salute Thee, I adore Thee, and I love Thee, O Jesus, my Saviour, outraged anew by blasphemers; and I offer Thee, through the Heart of Thy Blessed Mother, the worship of all the Angels and Saints, as an incense and perfume of sweet odour, most humbly beseeching Thee, by the virtue of Thy Sacred Face, to repair and renew in me, and in all men, Thy image disfigured by sin. Amen.

"I salute Thee, I adore Thee, and I love Thee, O adorable Face of Jesus, my Beloved Noble Seal of the Divinity. I apply myself to Thee with all the powers of my soul, and I most humbly pray to Thee to imprint in us all the image of God."

"Eternal Father, we offer Thee the Adorable Face of Thy well beloved Son, for the honour and glory of Thy Holy Name, and for the salvation of France."

PRAYERS OF M. DUPONT.

O Saviour Jesus, at the sight of Thy Most Holy Face, disfigured by grief, and at the sight of Thy Sacred Heart, so full of love, I cry out with St. Augustine: "Lord Jesus, impress upon my heart Thy sacred wounds, that I may read therein at once Thy sorrow and Thy love; Thy sorrow, in order to suffer every affliction for Thee; Thy love, in order, for Thee, to despise every other love." Amen.

Lord Jesus, when presenting ourselves before Thy adorable Face, to entreat Thee for the graces of which we have need, we beseech Thee, above all things, so to order the interior dispositions of our hearts, that we may never refuse Thee aught that Thou Thyself askest of us every day through Thy holy commandments, and by Thy divine inspiration. Amen.

Be merciful to us, O my God, do not reject our prayers, when, in the midst of our afflictions, we call upon Thy holy name, and seek, with love and confidence, Thy adorable Face. Amen.

We thank Thee, O Lord, for all Thy benefits; and we entreat Thee to engrave in our hearts feelings of love and gratitude, putting upon our lips songs of thanksgiving to Thy eternal praise. Amen.

May I expire, panting with a burning thirst to see the desirable Face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF POPE PIUS IX.

O my Jesus, cast upon us a look of mercy turn Thy Face towards each of us, as Thou didst to Veronica, not that we may see it with our bodily eyes, for this we do not deserve; but turn It towards our hearts, so that remembering Thee, we may ever draw from this fountain of strength the vigour necessary to sustain the combats of life. Amen. (At an audience given to three Roman parishes, March 10th, 1872).

Several French bishops have attached indulgences to this prayer.

PRAYER OF POPE CLEMENT VI.

O God, Who dost enlighten us with the light of Thy countenance, and Who, to reward the loving kindness of St. Veronica, didst leave us the impression of Thy Face on her veil as a remembrance, grant that through Thy Cross and Passion, we may one day fearlessly look upon Thy Face, when Thou wilt come to judge the living and the dead.

Almighty and eternal God, through whose grace the image of Thy Holy Face doth shine forth radiantly to Thy devout people, grant us, we beseech Thee, the remission of our sins, and direct all the thoughts, words, and actions of those who confide in Thy mercy. Who livest and reignest with the Father, in unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. AUGUSTINE.

I present myself before Thy Holy Face, O my Saviour, laden with my sins, and the penalties which they have brought upon me. My sufferings are far less than what I deserve; for although I am conscious of the just punishment of my sins, I do not, on that account, cease to commit fresh ones every day. I am bowed down under Thy scourges, and I do not become better, my heart is full of bitterness, and my obstinacy in doing evil remains for ever the same. My life passes away in misery, and I do not correct myself. When Thou chastisest me I make the best promises in the world; as soon as Thou liftest up Thy hand, I forget all that I promised Thee.

I make to Thee, O God, a sincere confession of my sins; I protest in Thy presence that, if Thou do not show mercy upon me, I shall be in danger of perishing utterly. Grant me, my Saviour, what I beg of Thee, although I do not deserve it, since Thou hast of Thy goodness, drawn me out of nothingness to put me into a state wherein I can pray to Thee. Amen.

May the most adorable name of God be adored for ever and ever.

May the holy day of the Lord be sanctified by all men.

May the Holy Face of Jesus be loved by every heart.

May holy Church, our Mother, be exalted throughout the whole earth.

May our holy Father, the Pope, Vicar of Jesus Christ, be venerated by all people.

St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles, and Patron of the Arch-Confraternity, pray for us.

Lord, show us Thy Face and we shall be saved. Amen, amen.

ACT OF LOVE TO THE HOLY FACE.

Adorable Face of my Jesus, my only love, my light and my life, grant that I may serve no one except Thee, that I may know no one except Thee, that I may love Thee alone, that I may live with Thee, of Thee, by Thee, and for Thee. Amen.

AN ACT OF REPARATION FOR ALL THE OUTRAGES WHICH JESUS CHRIST HAS SUFFERED IN HIS HOLY FACE

I adore and praise Thee, O my Divine Jesus, Son of the Living God, I desire to make Thee satisfaction for all the outrages Thou hast received for me, the most miserable of all Thy creatures, in all the members of Thy blessed Body; and particularly in Thy adorable Face. Hail, adorable Face, disfigured by blows, and defiled by spittle, and hardly to be recognized through the cruel treatment which Thou didst receive from the impious Jews. I salute you, O blessed Eyes,

all bathed in tears, which Thou didst shed for our salvation. I salute you, O blessed Ears, assailed by blasphemies, insults, and cruel mockeries. I salute Thee, O blessed Mouth, filled with graces and tenderness for sinners, but embittered with vinegar and gall by the monstrous ingratitude of that people, whom Thou didst chose from among all others. In reparation for all these ignominies, I offer Thee all the homage which is given Thee in that holy place where Thou art pleased to be honoured with a special worship uniting myself therewith. Amen.

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A LITANY OF THE HOLY FACE IN REPARATION FOR BLASPHEMIES, AND FOR THE CONVERSION OF BLASPHEMERS.

This Litany was composed by Sister St. Peter, approved by Mgr. Morlot, Archbishop of Tours, in 1847, and enriched with 100 days' indulgence, by Pius IX., January 27th, 1853.

The Litany is rather long for a prayer; yet we could not omit it. It is so beautiful in itself, and exhibits the Holy Face of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ under every aspect.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
Holy Virgin Mary, pray for us

O adorable Face, which wast adored with profound respect by Mary and Joseph when they saw Thee for the first time, have mercy on us.

O adorable Face, which in the stable of Bethlehem didst ravish with joy the Angels, the shepherds, and the magi,

O adorable Face, which in the Temple didst transpierce with a dart of love the saintly old man Simeon and the prophetess Anna,

O adorable Face, which was bathed in tears in Thy holy Infancy,

O adorable Face, which when Thou didst appear in the Temple at twelve years of age, didst fill with admiration the Doctors of the Law,

Have mercy on us.

O adorable Face, white with purity and ruddy with charity,

O adorable Face, more beautiful than the sun, more lovely than the moon, more brilliant than the stars,

O adorable Face, fresher than the roses of spring,

O adorable Face, more precious than gold, silver, and diamonds,

O adorable Face, whose charms are so ravishing, and whose grace is so attractive,

O adorable Face, whose every feature is characterised by nobility,

O adorable Face, contemplated by Angels,

O adorable Face, sweet delectation of the Saints,

Have mercy on us.

O adorable Face, masterpiece of the Holy Ghost, in which the Eternal Father is well pleased,

O adorable Face, delight of Mary and Joseph,

O adorable Face, ineffable mirror of the Divine perfections,

O adorable Face, whose beauty is ever ancient and ever new,

O adorable Face, which appeases the wrath of God,

O adorable Face, which makest the devils tremble,

O adorable Face, treasure of graces and of blessings,

Have mercy on us.

O adorable Face, exposed in the desor to the inclemencies of the weather,

O adorable Face, scorched with the heat of the sun and bathed with sweat in Thy journeys,

O adorable Face, whose expression is all divine,

O adorable Face, whose modesty and sweetness attracted both the just and sinners,

O adorable Face, which gavest a holy kiss to the little children after having blessed them,

O adorable Face, troubled and weeping at the tomb of Lazarus,

O adorable Face, brilliant as the sun, and radiant with glory on Mount Tabor,

O adorable Face, sorrowful at the sight of Jerusalem, and shedding tears over that ungrateful city,

Have mercy on us.

O adorable Face, bowed to the earth in the garden of Olives, and covered with confusion for our sins,

O adorable Face, bathed in a bloody sweat,
O adorable Face, kissed by the traitor Judas,
O adorable Face, whose sanctity and majesty smote the soldiers with fear and cast them to the ground,
O adorable Face, struck by a vile servant, shamefully blindfolded, and profaned by the sacrilegious hands of Thy enemies,
O adorable Face, defiled with spittle, and bruised by innumerable buffets and blows,
O adorable Face, whose Divine look wounded the heart of Peter with a dart of sorrow and love,

Have mercy on us.

O adorable face, humbled for us at the tribunals of Jerusalem,
O adorable Face, which didst preserve Thy serenity, when Pilate pronounced the fatal sentence,
O adorable Face, covered with sweat and blood, and falling in the mire under the heavy weight of the Cross,
O adorable Face, worthy of all our respect, veneration, and worship,
O adorable Face, wiped with a veil by a pous woman on the road to Calvary,
O adorable Face, raised on the instrument of most shameful punishment,
O adorable Face, whose brow was crowned with Thorns,
O adorable Face, whose eyes were filled with tears of blood,
O adorable Face, into whose mouth was poured gall and vinegar.

Have mercy on us.

O adorable Face, whose hair and beard were plucked out by the executioners,
O adorable Face, which was made like to that of a leper,
O adorable Face, whose incomparable beauty was obscured under the dreadful cloud of the sins of the world,
O adorable Face, covered with the sad shades of death,
O adorable Face, washed and anointed by Mary and the holy women, and wrapped in a shroud,
O adorable Face, inclosed in the sepulchre,
O adorable Face, all resplendent with glory and beauty on the day of the Resurrection,
O adorable Face, all dazzling with light at the moment of Thy Ascension,
O adorable Face, hidden in the Eucharist,
O adorable Face, which wilt appear at the end of time, in the clouds, with great power and majesty,
O adorable Face, which wilt cause sinners to tremble,
O adorable Face, which wilt fill the just with joy for all eternity,

Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, graciously hear us.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

PRAYER.

I salute Thee, I adore Thee, and I love Thee, O Jesus, my Saviour, outraged anew by blasphemers, and I offer Thee, through the heart of Thy blessed Mother, the worship of all the Angels and Saints, as an incense and a perfume of sweet odour, most humbly beseeching Thee, by the virtue of Thy Sacred Face, to repair and renew in me, and in all men, Thy image disfigured by sin.—*Amen.*

Pater, Ave, Gloria.

ANOTHER PRAYER.

I salute Thee, I adore Thee, and I love Thee, O adorable Face of Jesus, my Beloved, noble seal of the Divinity; with all the powers of my soul I apply myself to Thee, and most humbly pray Thee to imprint in us all the features of Thy divine likeness.—*Amen.*

By a rescript dated 27th January, 1853, His Holiness Pope Pius IX. grants to all who recite, with a contrite heart, these prayers in honour of the Holy Face of Jesus Christ, an indulgence of a hundred days, for each time, applicable to the souls in purgatory.

We shall conclude our tiny pages by a few aspirations taken from the Royal Psalmist, and hence inspired by the Holy Ghost Himself:—

"Convert us, O God, and show us Thy Face, and we shall be saved" (Ps. lxxix. 4).

"O God of hosts, convert us: and show us Thy Face, we shall be saved" (Ps. lxxix. 8).

"Behold, O God our protector, and look on the Face of Thy Christ" (Ps. lxxxiii. 10).

"Make Thy Face to shine upon Thy servant; save me in Thy mercy" (Ps. xxx. 17).

"Turn away Thy Face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities" (Ps. l. 11).

"Cast me not away from Thy Face, and take not Thy Spirit from me (Ps. l. 13).

"Turn not away Thy Face from Thy servant; for I am in trouble, hear me speedily" (Ps. lxviii. 18).

"Thy Face, O Lord, will I still seek, turn not away Thy Face from me: decline not in Thy wrath from Thy servant" (Ps. xxvi. 9).

"I have entreated Thy Face with my whole heart; have pity on me according to Thy Word" (Ps. cxviii. 58).

"Why turnest Thou Thy Face away, and forgetest our want and trouble?" (Ps. xliii. 24).

"May God have mercy on us and bless us; and may He cause the light of His countenance to shine upon us" (Ps. lxvi. 1).

"Turn not away Thy Face from me; in the day when I am in trouble, incline Thine ear to me" (Ps. ci. 2).

"For Thy servant, David's sake, turn not away the Face of Thy anointed" (Ps. cxxxi. 10).

"Make Thy Face to shine upon Thy servant, and teach me Thy justifications" (Ps. cxviii. 135).

BLESSING OF THE HIGH PRIEST AARON.

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord show His Face to thee and have mercy on thee. The Lord turn His countenance to thee, and give thee peace. (*Numbers*, vi. 24-26).

The Confraternity of the Holy Face is established in Cashel only a few years. There are already 140,000 names on the Register. Under God, thanks to holy nuns, the fervent spouses of Jesus Christ. Only in Tours were the certificates in English to be found. To be obliged to send to France for a leaflet in English, was not only inconvenient and expensive, but a clear obstacle to the extension of the holy Devotion in Ireland. To supply this evident want, the above pages are compiled. It is hoped they will be of use, not only in the Archdiocese of Cashel, but throughout Ireland, and, perhaps, elsewhere. The finger of God is manifest in the Devotion to the Holy Face, as upon its kindred Devotion to the Most Holy and Sacred Heart of Jesus, to make reparation to our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ for the sins and blasphemies of a wicked world.

What end could be higher and holier than by the fervent spirit of reparation to wipe, like St. Veronica, the blood and spittle from the Sacred Face of our Blessed Lord, to console His Sacred Heart for the infidelity, blasphemy, and sins of impious men, heretics, schismatics, and, worse still, bad Catholics?